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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health

Statement submitted by International Women's Health Coalition, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2009/100.

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Statement*

The International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) wishes to draw the attention of the assembled Ministries, Executive Heads of United Nations Agencies, Funds, and Programmes, and other participants in the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review to the resolution produced by the 2009 United Nations Commission on Population and Development (CPD). This intergovernmental resolution renews governments' commitment to fully implementing the Programme of Action (PoA) of the 1994 International Commission on Population and Development (ICPD), as well as additional commitments made since. These commitments are central to the achievement of global health goals.

At the heart of the 2009 CPD resolution, and a target under the IADGs, is universal access to sexual and reproductive health and protection of reproductive rights. The 2009 CPD resolution provides a clear and unequivocal roadmap for achieving the internationally-agreed goals (IADGs) and commitments, especially in regard to global public health. Highlights of the 2009 CPD Resolution include:

1) The first strong intergovernmental statement that implementation of the Programme of Action is essential for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the first such statement recognizing MDG target 5b (universal access to reproductive health), which states that "full" implementation of the ICPD PoA and key actions for its implementation are "integrally linked to global efforts to achieve the IADGs and MDGs and that these goals are mutually reinforcing".

2) Priority for technical and financial support to prevent and address maternal mortality and morbidity, and for funding of family planning; and

3) The first repetition of the 1999 intergovernmental commitment to take specific measures for access to safe, quality abortion in circumstances where abortion is not against the law, including the statement that "health systems should train and equip health-service providers" to ensure that such abortion is safe and accessible;

4) New commitment to "comprehensive education on sexuality and gender equality," access to male and female condoms, and reproductive health services for adolescents;

5) Assertion of the importance of addressing HIV prevention through comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, information, and education, particularly for girls, women, and young people because of the disproportionate burden HIV and AIDs places on them; and

6) An unprecedented emphasis on the human rights of women and men in the realm of sexuality.

The world's governments have boldly and collectively reaffirmed the need for global commitment to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and protection of reproductive rights in the 2009 CPD resolution. IWHC urges participants in the ECOSOC Ministerial Review to explicitly reaffirm this resolution in the Ministerial Declaration. In times of economic uncertainty, poor women and

* Issued without formal editing.

their young children suffer most. The 2009 CPD resolution presents a direct and succinct plan of action that, if followed, will help to address the health-related IADGs and ensure every woman's right to a just and healthy life.

To read further analysis and specific language contained in the 2009 resolution, please visit:

http://www.iwhc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3580&Itemid=824

To read the full resolution, please visit:

www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2009/CPD42_draft_resolution.pdf.